

Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Advisory Board

436 Dwight Street Springfield, MA 01103

For Immediate Release

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Updates from the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board Regional recycling facilities remain open as an essential service

As an essential service, the two western Massachusetts regional recycling facilities owned by the Commonwealth and operated by Waste Management Recycles America, remain open, accepting deliveries and processing material with safety precautions in place. A few pandemic-related materials can cause problems, if included in recycling bins. A complete list of what can be recycled can be found on the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) website at www.springfieldmrf.org.

- Personal protective equipment, such as plastic gloves and face masks, are not recyclable and must be placed in the trash.
- Sanitizing wipes are not recyclable and must go in the trash. "Flushable" wipes and any other type of wipes should be placed in the trash, not flushed down the toilet. All types of wipes are clogging the systems at wastewater treatment plants and personal septic systems. Wipes must always go into the trash.
- When placing household trash on the curb for pickup, or bringing to a municipal transfer station, please tie up trash bags securely.
- During the "stay-at-home" advisory period, some residents are cleaning out and de-cluttering garages, basements, closets, and home offices. The Springfield MRF Advisory Board's "What Do I Do With...?" provides information on hundreds of items for how to properly dispose or reuse or recycle. This A-Z disposal guide can be found on the Springfield MRF website.
- It is suggested that residents separate items intended for reuse or donation into different categories, bag or box them, label them clearly, and store them until the stay-at-home advisory is over.

Some common de-cluttering categories from our disposal guide are listed below:

CDs, DVDs, VHS, and other electronic media are not acceptable in household recycling. If selling or donating used media is not an option (some communities accept certain types via book donation programs), www.greendisk.com offers a fee-based, mail-in recycling option.

Clothing and Textiles: CLEAN & DRY textiles and clothing can be placed in drop-off boxes for recyclers such as Salvation Army (easternusa.salvationarmy.org). Acceptable items include: all clothing and accessories including ripped, stained, missing buttons, mismatched socks, shoes and gloves; and linens such as curtains, bedding, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition except moldy or wet. Do not donate used face masks. Please note that thrift stores are currently closed, but some drop boxes are still being serviced. Do not leave materials at overflowing boxes. If residents can wait to drop off items until the "stay-at-home" advisory is over, this would greatly assist organizations in managing materials with fewer staff members.

Photographs and slides: glossy photographs are not acceptable in recycling because of the photographic chemical coatings in the paper. Slides and negatives are also not recyclable.

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The Springfield MRF Advisory Board is a public body that discusses and reviews MRF operations, provides education about the MRF recycling programs, and acts as a liaison between member communities, the MRF operator and MassDEP.
springfieldmrf.org